A PROSTATIC TRACTOR FOR PERINEAL PROSTATECTOMY.

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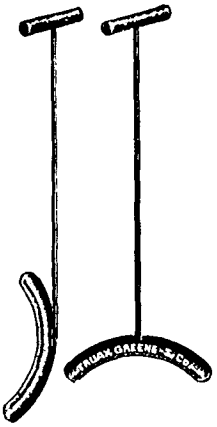
In many cases of prostatectomy the ordinary sound serves to depress the prostate sufficiently to permit of the enucleation of adventitious growths, if the operator be familiar with the operative technique. In quite a proportion of cases, however,



Lydston prostatic tractor.

a tractor of some kind is necessary. I submit an instrument of my own device which seems to answer the indications admirably. The instrument when closed is passed into the bladder *via* an opening in the membranous urethra—which is exposed thoroughly by the Y-incision—precisely as a urethral sound is introduced. It is opened in the cavity of the bladder by the finger through the perineal wound. During the operation, an assistant makes such traction upon the handle of the

instrument as is necessary to bring the prostatic overgrowths within reach of the finger or forceps. When the operation is completed, the finger is passed into the bladder beside the slim wire shank of the instrument, and the latter closed and withdrawn.

In regard to prostatic tractors, it will be remembered that cases occur in which no amount of traction within the limits of safety will bring the prostate within reach. In such cases suprapubic prostatectomy or the combined operation is necessary.